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Gunman kills two at Virginia Tech

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Virginia Tech, the scene in 2007 of the deadliest school shooting in US history, was again struck by violence yesterday when a gunman opened fire, killing a campus police officer and a second person.

The university on its web-site (www.vt.edu) described the shooter as a white male in a maroon hooded sweatshirt and grey sweatpants.

It said the police officer, a member of Virginia Tech's own security force, was shot and killed during a "routine traffic stop" in a parking lot near the McComas swimming pool and athletics building.

Yesterday was a study day on the eve of final exams for the fall semester.

Final exams scheduled for today have been postponed, pending a decision on the entire examination program for the end of the fall semester, the university said.

Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Virginia, was the scene of the deadliest shooting incident by a single gunman in US history in April 2007 when an English major, Seung-Hui Cho, 23, killed 32 people before taking his own life.

Twenty-five others were wounded.

Aruba Tourism Summit 2012 "Winning the Future" opens



Dean of U of A Faculty of Tourism Studies John Wardlaw

The results of several months of study by a team from the Dick Pope Senior Institute of Tourism Studies, Rosen College of Hospitality Management was the keynote of the

lity of Aruba.

Minister Oduber confirmed in his opening address the importance of the study's finding and conclusions towards the crafting of Aruba's marketing plan for the coming year. The summit's title and theme is "Winning the Future," during which he presented his "Two Steps Ahead" Tourism Policy.

Minister Oduber expressed his extreme gratification at the diversity of those attending in regards to their ties to Aruba's tourism industry; large resort operators sat side by side with small entrepreneurs and educators in the tourism field. "I commend you on your presence here today... because we can only win the future by participating, discussing and seeking alignments. Working together towards a common vision is hard work, but it is smarter."

Dr. Croes reiterated this sentiment during his presentation, and described a lack of trust and communication as producing a serious detriment to Aruba continuing to advance in tourism as it had over the past 25 years. A panel of tourism pundits consisting of Aruba Tourism Authority CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, Aruba



Professor Dr. Robertico Croes

Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) CEO Jim Hepple, Dean of Faculty of Tourism Studies of the U of A, John Wardlaw, Lisette Malmberg of De Palm Tours and Manuel Rivera of the University of Central Florida also echoed this sentiment during their Q & A following Dr. Croes' conclusions.

"When assuming the responsibility as a new Minister of Tourism, my philosophy was to have a national approach to tourism; during the first months I included over 30 stakeholders, over 200 individuals, to participate in sessions, give feedback and ideas in how to develop the tourism industry and especially, how to enhance the experience of the visitor," continued Minister Oduber.

Continued on page 2



ATA CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes

opening session of the Aruba Tourism Summit 2012 at the Renaissance Convention Center yesterday afternoon.

Officially opening the summit was Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, who introduced keynote speaker Dr. Robertico Croes, Interim Chair Tourism Events and Attractions and Associate Dean at Dick Pope; he conducted the study deploying hospitality students from the University of Aruba and the EPI professional training faci-

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Aruba Tourism Summit 2012 . . .

Continued from page 1



Lizette Malmberg

The study by UCF was focused on the demand among island visitors, and the needs of islanders in regards to their participation in the industry, rather than simply a study of the product. "After meeting with stakeholders, we identified the need for more recent research and data, focused business intelligent and analysis of some factors that were of specific concern... There was a need for an objective, in depth and critical look-I repeat, a critical look- into our current plans and strategies and further analysis on what are our challenges and opportunities on this point."

"Tourism is, and will be, the driver of our economy; the

largest employer, the highest generator of revenue, the larger propellant of growth and the key contributor to our quality of life. With that knowledge, we want to continue to make responsible and clear policy and strategic choices in regards to Aruba's tourism industry."

Minister Oduber further illustrated the importance of maintaining the industry while considering the many factors impacted

the enhancement of the quality of life for residents and visitors is an imperative of deciding policy.

The issues raised by Minister Oduber decided the direction of the study and its conclusions and advisements. These will be detailed in a follow up piece in tomorrow's paper, including comments from the panel.

Today the summit will continue beginning at 8:00 a.m. with presentations by a number of guest speakers. Carlos Vogler, Regional Director for the Americas in the United Nations World Tourism Organiza-



Summit speakers

by accelerated growth for the island's social fabric and with

tion (UNWTO) will open session with a presentation titled "Safeguarding the Future of Tourism-Global and Local Perspectives."

Also speaking on "Tourism, Creativity and Development-Global and Local Perspectives," will be Greg Richards, Professor of Leisure Studies at Tilburg University and author of 11 books, and John Checkett, Director of Route Planning for Jetblue, the airline that now brings the greatest number of visitors to Aruba.

by Rosalie Klein

Year of the Shoco, the year of wisdom 2012 Aruba Bird Calendar launched

Aruba Birdlife Conservation proposes 2012 to be the Year of the Shoco, the year of wisdom. 2012 should be Aruba's year of nature conservation. Aruba Birdlife Conservation proposes that a National Conservation Master Plan be developed and implemented in an effort to save very important nature areas. Achieving such would guarantee a certain level of quality of Product Aruba and in turn guarantee a certain level of quality of life to all.

Aruba's Arikok National Park, which is good for some 17% of the island's surface, is a true jewel, but it does not reflect the complete variety of micro habitats to be found in Aruba. For instance, Aruba is internationally known for its 3 IBA's, or Important Bird Areas, none of which are part of our National Park. These are the reef islands at the San Nicolas Bay area, Spanish Lagoon and Bubali Plas. While our national park is among the most arid of places on the island and its northern border with the Caribbean Sea can be quite hostile, the important bird areas are to its contrary characterized by their peaceful interplay between land and water which generates better opportunities for Aruba's wildlife. Of the 224 bird species registered in Aruba, less than 25% of the



Shoco - Burrowing Owl
photo courtesy of Greg Peterson

species can be found in our national park.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation proposes that the following areas be added to our National Park in order to conserve a more holistic representation of Aruba's variety of micro habitats, which would then cover a greater variety of our flora and fauna.

Areas of Aruba which should be conserved for future generations by adding them to our national park entail among others the three above mentioned important bird areas.

Continued on page 3



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Year of the Shoco, the year of wisdom

Continued from page 2



Kinikini - American Kestrel
photo courtesy of Greg Peterson

In accordance with world nature conservation recommendations, all areas containing mangrove trees should be conserved by adding them to the park. Areas such as from Mangel Halto to Santo Largo

(Aruba's most extensive mangrove area) as well as the mangrove areas from Parkietenbos Landfill all the way to the Varadero yacht club should be added to our national park. The reef islands in front of the Oranjestad harbor, which were once covered with mangroves, could become a nice restoration project. Our salinas which contribute to the survival chances of migratory birds should be part of the conservation efforts. Saliña di Malmok,

Saliña di Palmbeach, Saliña Santo Largo and Saliña Savaneta should be included in the national park as well as our ponds (tankis). Other important areas such as Rooi Lamoenchi, Cero Teishi, Rooi Manonchi, the seaside area from Zeewijk to Cura Cabay and from Kudareba (westpunt) to Arashi should also be incorporated. Then there are our beautiful dunes which cannot be excluded. And last but not least, the wings to the sides of Parke Nacional Arikok should be extended. To compliment these terrestrial areas, the largest part possible of our territorial waters including beaches should be declared Aruba's marine park.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation started a campaign on February 4, 2011 to get our Shoco nominated as the National Bird of Aruba. Dr. Adrian Delnevo recently estimated that there are only approximately 200 pairs of Shoco's left. The numbers continue to dwindle. The Shoco is one of the two endemic subspecies Aruba has. Protecting this unique bird of Aruba may prevent its extinction. We hope that the Government of Aruba will soon declare our Shoco the National Bird of Aruba. The nomination of our Shoco, the symbol of wisdom, as the National Bird of Aruba, could then be seen as the kick-off for the development and imple-

mentation of an ambitious National Conservation Master Plan. Just Imagine Aruba!

This is the fourth consecutive year that Aruba Birdlife Conservation has launched a bird calendar. We are grateful to Chartis, the sponsor as well as the ministers and members of parliament who are starting to rally conservation efforts. The calendars are on sale for 12,50 florin and all funds go to the Aruba Birdlife Conservation foundation. Contact can be established via aruba.birdlife.conservation@gmail.com.

Greg Peterson – chairman of Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



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Container, cruise data validate our economic stability

ORANJESTAD -- According to Rex Sherman from AAPA (American Association of Port Authorities), Aruba is doing very well in terms of container and cruise traffic – better than some, not as well as others.

The association, of which APA N.V. is a member, says that the data compiled monthly suggests that the Aruban economy is holding up very well despite global economic uncertainty, especially in North America and Europe.

The upswing in imports is evidence that demand for goods and services by the island population and tourist industry is strong and growing. It also underscores the critical importance of the port to the economy and well being of Aruba.

Just in time for gift giving season: the new Mario Hernandez Collection



for either gender. For the woman who has everything, the one-of-a-kind, fuchsia Mia bag made of pure leather embossed with a contemporary rose pattern will make a unique gift she will treasure. There is no other bag from Mario Hernandez Couture quite like it. –literally!

The MH line of hand-crafted leather goods is complemented by a stunning hand woven or painted silk scarves and shawls to affect beautifully



Finely crafted, stylish leather accessories and luggage are the hallmark of the Mario Hernandez store in Paseo Herencia Mall, and they are very excited to have just received the newest collection for 2012, just in time for holiday gift giving.

Two distinctive collections feature the lively work of artists Debilzan and Vianey for eye-turning hand-bags, luggage and wallets that make great gifts and stocking stuffers



coordinated look. Sumptuous knit tops sport their famous Chrysalis design and unicorn logo in trendy hues.

Sleek and stylish fashionistas of either gender will be well pleased with the new Mario Hernandez collection, available exclusively at the signature store in Paseo Herencia shopping center in Palm Beach

Advice to the Critical Consumer

ORANJESTAD -- The Aruba Bureau of Rent and the Consumer has published the following publication, which today's Morning News reproduces here for our readers.

A critical consumer is one who is always a conscientious buyer in every situation.

The critical consumer is constantly on the look out for information that will guide his thinking concerning the realities around him. He gets information from media publications and other reliable sources.

The critical consumer questions each product, and the consequences that each product may have on the environment. Hence, he takes into consideration the different aspects of each product, such as, the quality of the product, the price, the client's service at the point of purchase, guarantee, etc. In essence, the critical consumer purchases wisely and conscientiously.

In order to be a critical consumer, one needs to be educated on his rights as a consumer. The critical consumer will use a variety of criteria to evaluate each product, such as, the price, guarantee, environment, etc.

Why is it important to be a critical consumer?

*The critical consumer understands that his money has value. Consumers understand that they can do something against unreasonably high prices...they can refuse to purchase an unreasonably

expensive item. If consumers do this, the merchant will stop selling the product at the high price. This is the philosophy of a free market system.

*The critical consumer makes the market sharp and efficient. The critical consumer takes the time to enquire, to research a product and/or the business when he does not have the answer he seeks. When the consumer manifests what he wants as the client, he puts pressure on the business to comply with his needs and desires and to comply within the confines of the law.

*The critical consumer understands his rights and the rights of others. The moment a business owner recognizes that his client is critical and insists on his rights as a client, the business will make every effort to comply with the law and the rights of the consumer so that his business can continue to survive and flourish.

As consumers we are responsible and obligated to demand information regarding the social and environmental conditions of the production process of a product.

The consumer has a responsibility to be conscious of the effect of his purchase on the environment. Hence, it is important to become respectful to nature and reduce and/or reuse, recycle consumer products ecologically as far as this is possible.

Bonbini AIDALuna!

ORANJESTAD-- AIDALuna is a Sphinx class cruise ship, owned by US based Carnival Corp and built by Meyer Werft shipyards in Papenburg, Germany. She is the third ship in her class, preceded by AIDAdiva and AIDAbella, and followed by AIDAbly, and AIDAsol. The ship has a capacity of 2,100 passengers and has a gross tonnage (GT) of 69,203 tons. AIDALuna was initially deployed in the Baltic Sea for the 2009 summer season. In the winter of 2009, she was redeployed to the Canary Islands.

The ship has 1,025 state-rooms; 666 of which are outside (65% have balconies), and

359 are inside. AIDALuna has a 25,000-ft² spa facility, 7 restaurants, 1 of which is multi-cultural, and 11 bars.

The focal point in the ship is the Theatrum, a three-level complex, which can be transformed into a Theater. An on-board 4-D Cinema is fitted with moving chairs.

In 2011, AIDALuna was re-deployed to the Caribbean and is offering 14-day cruises, with an additional 6 to 8-day sailings. On her way to the Caribbean, AIDALuna sails the East Coast, calling in New York.

AIDALuna will visit Aruba in December 2011 and January, February, March, November, and December 2012.

Over 70,000 cruise visitors arrived at our shores in November 2011

ORANJESTAD -- A total of 73,091 (seventy three thousand ninety one) passengers visited Aruba in November of this year, bringing the total cruise visitors to 496,625 (four hundred ninety six thousand six hundred and twenty five) passengers. This is a 2% growth over the same period in 2010, when a total of 486,676 (four hundred and eighty six thousand six hundred and seventy six) cruise visitors arrived on the island. The average amount

of passengers per ship in 2011 is 1,741 (at an average occupation level of 95%).

The amount of crew members that arrived in November 2011 was 30,202 (thirty thousand two hundred and two) crew members, bringing the 2011 total to 209,902 (two hundred and nine thousand nine hundred and two) crew members. 2011 shows an increase of nearly 3.98% crew members compared to the same period in 2010.



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Honoring at Occidental Grand Aruba



Recently a group of Loyal visitors of Aruba were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 consecutive years. All of the honorees are members of Occidental Grand Aruba and have been enjoying our island every year. The honorees were Mr. Thomas Dore' and Mrs. Rose Dore' resident of Long Beach Island, New Jersey. Ms. Darline S. de Cuba, representing Aruba Tourism Authority, together with First Club Mgr. Mrs. Croes, Marketing Mgr. Mrs. Milangela Wilson, Room Division Mgr. Lorena Labrador, Vip Member Mgr. Mrs. Yolima Guerra, and Chef Mr. Miguel Garcia conducted the ceremony at Occidental Grand Aruba. The main reason they return to Aruba is our great weather, white sand beaches and the local food and because they consider Aruba to be One Happy Island.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Obama rejects Republican 'appeasement' claims

WASHINGTON (AFP) - With the icy riposte "ask Osama bin Laden," President Barack Obama yesterday rebutted Republican claims he is blind to the threat from radical "thugs" and guilty of appeasing US enemies.

Obama's use of lethal force as US commander-in-chief against Al-Qaeda and other groups has partly insulated him from traditional Republican political attacks arguing that Democrats are weak on national security.

But his potential 2012 Republican election foes are seeking to use his sometimes testy relations with Israel to woo Jewish and evangelical voters and to paint Obama as timid in the face of threats from Iran.

"Ask Osama bin Laden and the 22 out of 30 top Al-Qaeda leaders who've been taken off the field whether I engage in appeasement -- or whoever's left out there, ask them about that," Obama said.

The blunt comment, delivered in an unusually chilling moment in the White House briefing room, showed a flash of the inner steel Obama has displayed since taking office in 2009 criticized by foes as an anti-war candidate.

It represented a rare foray by Obama into the foreign policy arguments beginning to

bubble up in the 2012 campaign, and was a likely preview of debate showdowns with the eventual Republican presidential nominee.

Obama has presided over a vastly expanded drone war in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas, Yemen and elsewhere designed to hunt down and kill members of Al-Qaeda and other terror groups threatening the United States.

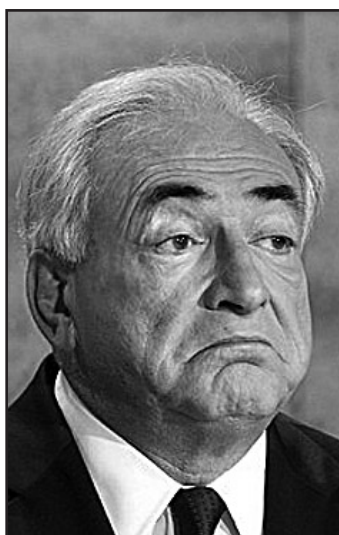
The covert warfare, using military and CIA assets, drone strikes and other means, has decimated Al-Qaeda's senior leadership and seriously degraded its capacity to mount operations against the United States, top US officials say.

He also ordered the risky helicopter-borne US special forces raid deep inside Pakistan in May that killed Al-Qaeda leader Bin Laden, before quickly burying him at sea off of a US aircraft carrier.

One Republican candidate, Mitt Romney, accused Obama on Wednesday of having "insulted" Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and of being "timid and weak in the face of the existential threat that Israel faces from Iran."

Republican long-shot candidate Rick Santorum told the same forum of Jewish voters that Obama was similar to politicians who appeased Germany's Adolf Hitler.

Strauss-Kahn video shows maid was truthful, says lawyers



Dominique Strauss-Kahn

NEW YORK (AFP) - Hotel video surveillance footage shown for the first time yesterday is "further proof" that the maid accusing Dominique

Strauss-Kahn of sexual assault was telling the truth, her lawyers said.

But Strauss-Kahn biographer Michel Taubmann, meanwhile, accused "a small group of people from the Sofitel" of having ensnared Dominique Strauss-Kahn in a "trap."

France's BFMTV broadcast images showing the former International Monetary Fund chief paying his bill, leaving and getting into a taxi after he was alleged to have sexually assaulted chambermaid Nafissatou Diallo at the New York Sofitel.

They showed that Strauss-Kahn, who admits that a sexual liaison took place but insists it was consensual, was not in a hurry when he left the Sofitel hotel at 12:27 pm on the day of his arrest, May 14.

Other images showed Diallo seated in a corridor and being looked after by Sofitel employees after she said Strauss-Kahn attacked her in his suite.

A hotel employee is shown and heard calling police to inform them of the alleged attack.

New York prosecutors dropped the criminal case against Strauss-Kahn, who had been tipped to win next year's French presidential election, after Diallo was deemed an unreliable witness.

Taubmann, whose biography of Strauss-Kahn was published December 1, denied he was chalking up the incident to a "conspiracy theory." Strauss-Kahn has distanced himself from Taubmann's account.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Santo Domingo : Hatians and sons of Hatians born in the Dominican Republic stand a protest in front of the Congress demanding the right to obtain the Dominican citizenship, in Santo Domingo on December 8, 2011. Many of the activists held pictures of Dominican activist Sonia Pierre, a fighter for the rights of the descendants of Hatians in the Dominican Republic, deceased last Sunday.

AFP PHOTO



Gay half-sister of Republican Gingrich backs Obama

-- The gay half-sister of Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich slammed his position on gay rights on Wednesday and said she will support President Barack Obama, a Democrat, in the 2012 election.

Candace Gingrich-Jones, a gay rights activist, told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow

that she and her older half-brother, the former speaker of the House of Representatives, were "mutually respectful" but disagree on gay rights.

"He is definitely on the wrong side of history when it comes to those issues," Gingrich-Jones said.

She said she would "work really, really hard to make sure

that President Obama is re-elected next year no matter who the Republican candidate is."

Gingrich is known for his socially conservative views and has said he opposes gay marriage. Gingrich-Jones, a director at the Humans Rights Campaign, a gay advocacy group, said he did not attend her wedding.

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Getting rid of his horns

Brazilian Jose Adauto Caetano, president of the "Cuckold Association," poses in front of his horns collection in Fortaleza, northeastern Brazil, on December 8, 2011. Adauto has decided to sell his 70-piece-collection and more than 3000 books on the subject, and asks for R\$15.000,00 (some 8,300 US dollars) for the whole lot. (AFP PHOTO)



Corzine can't explain missing MF Global funds

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former Wall Street high-flyer and Democratic politician Jon Corzine told US lawmakers yesterday he did not know what happened to an estimated \$1.2 billion that disappeared from the accounts of now bankrupt broker MF Global.

Corzine -- former US senator, New Jersey governor, head of Goldman Sachs and later MF Global -- apologized to investors and claimed he could account for the loss of "many hundreds of millions of dollars."

"I simply do not know where the money is, or why the accounts have not been reconciled to date," he told lawmakers, as he faced the glare of TV cameras for the first time since the firm went bust.

MF Global collapsed in October after making vast bets on European sovereign debt -- particularly Belgium, Italy, Spain, Ireland and Portugal -- that turned sour amid the eurozone financial crisis.

Around \$1.2 billion appears to be missing from the customer accounts of failed US broker, which especially served investors in commodity futures and derivatives, a liquidator of the company has said.

In contrite testimony, Corzine described for the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee in broad strokes his tenure at the head of the company and the events leading up to bankruptcy.

"I appear at today's hearing with great sadness," said

Corzine, speaking softly and shifting in his seat as he began his testimony.

"My sadness, of course, pales in comparison to the losses and hardships that customers, employees and investors have suffered as a result of MF Global's bankruptcy."

The committee's Republican chairman Frank Lucas said stressed the impact of the firm's failure on farmers and agricultural businesses that used MF to hedge for shifts in commodity prices.

"Thousands of your former customers across the country are experiencing severe financial hardship because of events that occurred under your watch," he told Corzine.

The former CEO acknowledged he had strongly advocated MF's investment of its own money in eurozone debt, but insisted he knew nothing about the missing funds the day before its formal bankruptcy.

"Many transactions occurred in those last chaotic days. I believed that (MF Global's) investments in short-term European debt securities were prudent," he said.

Clinton warns Internet firms against aiding hardline regimes

THE HAGUE (AFP) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday warned Internet firms to avoid offering the "tools of oppression" to authoritarian Middle East regimes trying to crush democracy protests.

Clinton urged private companies to "embrace their role in protecting Internet freedom" and ensure protection of ordinary people as well as political activists.

Speaking at an Internet conference in The Hague, the chief US diplomat cited cases where "companies' products and services were used as tools of oppression," without naming the companies.

"I'd like to discuss three specific challenges that defenders of Internet freedom must confront," Clinton told delegates from more than 20 countries, non-governmental organisations, as well as cyber activists and bloggers.

"The first challenge is for the private sector to embrace its role in protecting Internet freedom," Clinton said, adding "in recent months we've seen cases where companies' products and services were used as tools of oppression."

Companies have also reportedly turned over sensitive information to governments about dissidents or shut down social networking accounts of activists involved in a political debate, she said.

"Today's news stories are about companies selling the hardware and software of repression to authoritarian governments," she told the Google-sponsored gathering.

"When companies sell surveillance equipment to the security agency of a Syria, or Iran, or in past times Kadhafi, there can be no doubt that it will be used to violate rights."

Activists have used Facebook, Twitter and other Internet technology to organise protests against the rule of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and the late Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi.

She said "smart companies" decide before being asked by their governments to avoid dealing with countries that use repression.

Clinton also warned against bids by repressive governments to use international for it to impose national barriers on the Internet by upending the public-private partnership now governing it.

"This approach would be disastrous for Internet freedom. More government control will further constrict what people in repressive environments can do online," Clinton said.

Clinton was referring to a Code of Conduct for Information Security that was introduced by Russia, China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan at the UN General Assembly in September.

China's Internet controls have already become a key irritant in relations with the United States, especially after a dispute over Chinese censorship led US search engine giant Google to cut back in China.

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Health & Living

Drug combo boosts breast cancer survival: study



(AFP) - Postmenopausal women with a common type of breast cancer that thrives on estrogen survived longer when treated with a combination of two drugs rather than just one, a US study said this week.

The results of the phase III trial, released at a meeting of breast cancer experts in San Antonio, Texas, show the first

benefit for women with hormone receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer in 10 years, study authors said.

Both drugs -- anastrozole (Arimidex) and fulvestrant (Faslodex) -- are currently used to treat breast cancer but they have typically been administered separately, not together.

The results of the randomized, controlled SWOG trial showed that the two anti-estrogen drugs given together extended the median survival time by more than six months compared to standard treatment with anastrozole only.

The study began in 2004 and included 707 postmenopausal women with metastatic hormone receptor-positive breast cancer.

All the women took a daily oral dose of anastrozole, which works by reducing production of tumor-promoting estrogen.

About half of the women also got a 250 milligram injection of fulvestrant every 28 days. Fulvestrant works by interfering with the receptors that allow estrogen to signal cells to grow and reproduce.

Lead study coordinator Rita Mehta of the University of California, Irvine, Medical Center said the two drugs together showed an impressive impact on a subtype of breast cancer that accounts for more than half of all cases.

"If we take away estrogen and the estrogen receptor, the two together should be better than just doing one at a time," Mehta said.

"These patients have not had a new treatment that gave them an overall survival benefit in more than a decade."

Women in the trial who received just anastrozole survived a median of 41.3 months. Women who received the two in combination survived a median of 47.7 months.

Researchers said side effects were generally similar in both groups, though the most severe side effects, including one stroke and two pulmonary embolisms, were seen in the combination group.

"This most likely will change the standard of care for how we treat these patients," said study co-author Kathy Albain of Loyola University Medical Center.

Brazil moves to combat 'crack epidemic'



The Brazilian government on Wednesday launched a war on what it called a "crack epidemic", including medical treatment for addicts and a crackdown on trafficking, particularly in border areas.

"We are facing a crack epidemic in our country," Health Minister Alexandre Padilha, flanked by President Dilma Rousseff and other officials, said in Brasilia.

Between 2003 and 2011, the number of cases of "chemical dependency" in Brazil has increased tenfold, hitting groups and regions which previously had not been affected, Padilha added, without giving further details.

The government reacted with a \$2.2 billion plan focusing on prevention, care and re-

pression, said Rousseff.

The plan involves medical care for addicts, a crackdown on cocaine trafficking from the border areas to the cities and a legal reform to quickly destroy confiscated drugs to prevent their diversion, officials said.

There will be "repression without complacency" said Rousseff, recalling the deployment of 6,500 troops since November 23 in the border areas to combat drug and arms trafficking.

A defense ministry official recently told AFP that the governments of neighboring Bolivia, Peru and Paraguay were given advance notice of the troop deployment.

Brazil, with a population of 191 million, shares borders with Argentina, Bolivia, Guyana, Colombia, Suriname, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela as well as with French Guiana.

A study by the National Confederation of Municipalities showed that crack has replaced alcohol consumption in most Brazilian cities and towns due to "the easy access to the drug and the low cost," less than five reals or \$2.85.

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Health Tip: Managing Diabetes While Under Stress

**** Managing diabetes can be tough enough, but the challenge is even greater when you're under stress. The American Diabetes Association says possible impacts of stress on diabetes management include the risks of:**

- A sudden, dramatic rise in blood glucose levels.
- Strong negative emotions.
- Difficulty making decisions or thinking clearly.
- Compulsive eating or making unhealthy food choices.
- Significant strain on the heart and circulatory system.

Babies learn whom to trust at early age

(AFP) - You can fool them once, but babies will not be fooled again if adults trick them, according to a new Canadian study.

Infants normally mimic sounds, facial expressions and actions they observe but researchers at Concordia University in Montreal found that if an adult tricks them, they will no longer follow along with that person.

The findings published in the journal *Infant Behavior and Development* bolster previous evidence that infants can dif-

ferentiate between credible and un-credible sources, the study said.

"Like older children, infants keep track of an individual's history of being accurate or inaccurate and use this information to guide their subsequent learning," said researcher Diane Poulin-Dubois, a professor in Concordia's department of psychology.

"Specifically, infants choose not to learn from someone who they perceive as unreliable."

To demonstrate this, experimenters looked inside a con-

tainer while expressing excitement and invited infants aged 13 to 16 months to discover whether the box actually contained a toy or was empty.

Then, the same experimenters used their forehead instead of their hands to turn on a push-on light, hoping the infant would follow suit.

Only 34 percent of infants paired with unreliable testers followed the task while 61 percent of infants whose testers were reliable imitated the behavior.

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Apple loses China iPad trademark case



BEIJING (AFP) - Apple has lost a long-running legal battle against a Taiwanese-owned company that it claimed was illegally using its iconic iPad trademark in China, court officials and state media said.

A court in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen ruled Tuesday that Apple lacked "supporting facts and evidence" for its claim that Proview Technology (Shenzhen) was infringing the US company's iconic tablet computer trademark.

Apple declined to comment when contacted by AFP.

Proview Technology (Shenzhen) is owned by a Taiwanese company that registered the trademark name "ipad" in several countries including China as early as 2000, years before

Apple began selling the iconic tablet.

Apple paid 35,000 pounds for the global trademark rights in 2009, but Proview Technology (Shenzhen) retained the Chinese rights, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The companies have been embroiled in a legal battle ever since, it said.

A company charged with restructuring the debts of Proview Technology (Shenzhen), which is on the brink of bankruptcy, said after the ruling that Proview would seek 10 billion yuan (\$1.6 billion) from Apple for copyright infringement, Xinhua said.

Apple started selling its sleek iPad in China in September 2010, after months of grey-market action among avid buyers unwilling to wait for the official launch.

Greater China -- which includes Hong Kong and Taiwan -- has become Apple's fastest growing region, with revenue there second only to the United States.

Sci-Tech

US calls for Internet freedom amid India plan

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States called Wednesday for freedom of expression on the Internet after the India said it planned to find ways to ban offensive content before it is posted.

India vowed to pursue the restrictions after major Internet firms such as Facebook and Google -- nearly all of them based in the United States -- said that they were unable to screen content before it goes online.

"We are concerned about any effort to curtail freedom of expression on the Internet," State Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters, while carefully avoiding any direct

criticism of proposals in India.

Toner said that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would speak at length about Internet freedom in an address today in The Hague.

"Secretary Clinton has called on the global community to protect freedoms of expression, association and assembly in the online world as we do in the regular world," Toner said. "We uphold those beliefs."

Indian Communications Minister Kapil Sibal insisted Tuesday that the world's largest democracy supported free speech but said websites such as Facebook, Google and Yahoo had "had images which

could be an insult to Indians."

Sibal pointed to fake images of naked politicians and religious figures. News reports said he complained specifically about a site that targeted Sonia Gandhi, the president of his ruling Congress party.

Clinton has already delivered two major speeches on Internet freedom in which she has pushed for an end to restrictions around the world, warning that nations that suppress online activity will pay an economic cost.

The United States has sought warmer relations with India in recent years and is generally cautious about any statement that could cause friction.

Wine dregs improve cow milk, cut methane emissions



MELBOURNE (AFP) - Feeding dairy cows the stems, seeds and skins from wine grapes boosts milk production and dramatically cuts the animal's methane emissions, Australian research published Thursday shows.

Scientists found that supplementing the cows' feed with

grape marc -- the leftover material from wine-making -- reduced cow emissions by 20 percent and increased milk production by five percent.

It also led to more healthy fatty acids in their milk, the research by Victoria's Department of Primary Industries found.

Scientist Peter Moate said researchers were stunned by the results, with the cut to methane emissions thought to represent the largest reduction of its kind ever attained through the use of a feed supplement.

"We've managed to utilise what is currently a waste product for the wine industry and turn it into a very valuable feed source," Moate said.

The scientists supplemented the diet of dairy cows with five kilograms of dried grape marc over 37 days and compared the results with other animals fed conventional fodder.

Moate said the research showed that fatty acids in the grape marc milk were six times higher than with standard autumn feed.

"These particular fatty acids are extremely potent in their ability to benefit heart health and are also known to help fight cancer, diabetes and arthritis," he said.

Moate added there were also indications that cows fed grape marc produced milk with higher levels of healthy antioxidants and further tests were being conducted to verify this.

The research is part of a wider programme looking at the use of feed supplements to reduce methane emissions, including brewers' grains and cold-pressed canola meal.

The dairy industry in Victoria state provides than 85 percent of Australia's dairy exports, producing 5.9 billion litres of raw milk each year from a herd of around one million cows.

Chile glacier in rapid retreat

SANTIAGO (AFP) - The Jorge Montt glacier in southern Chile is melting at a rate of a kilometer (0.6 miles) per year, making it one of the world's most visible mile-stones of global warming, according to researchers.

Chile's Center for Scientific Studies (CECs) said Wednesday that several glaciers in the country's south have shrunk because of global warming but that the 454-square-kilometer Jorge Montt is one of those shrinking the fastest.

The withering glacier is part of the 13,000-square-kilometer (5,020 square mile) Southern

Ice Field, the third largest frozen landmass after Antarctica and Greenland.

During the 1990s, the glacier retreated some seven kilometers, but its rate of melting has "accelerated," releasing an increasing number of icebergs into the fjord where the glacier lay, according to Andres Rivera, of the CECs.

The latest study of the glacier took place between February 2010 and January of this year, during which two stationary cameras timed to shoot four times a day took some 1,445 pictures of the glacier.

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ACROSS

1. Mythical bird
4. Penicillium
8. Bringing up the rear
12. Length measure
13. "...sting like ___" (Ali)
14. Toward shelter, at sea
15. Choreographer-funding gp.
16. Buenos ___
17. Denials
18. Ballpark treats
21. "28 ___ Later" (2002 zombie film)
22. "Kidnapped" author's monogram

23. Eastern prince
25. "___ Got a Pocketful of Dreams"
26. Stephen of "The Crying Game"
29. London buses
33. ___ Moines
34. GI's social club
35. Frosts
36. Martino and Michaels
37. Ending for kitchen or major
39. Backstabber
45. As well as
46. Breakfast area
47. Saint, in Brazil

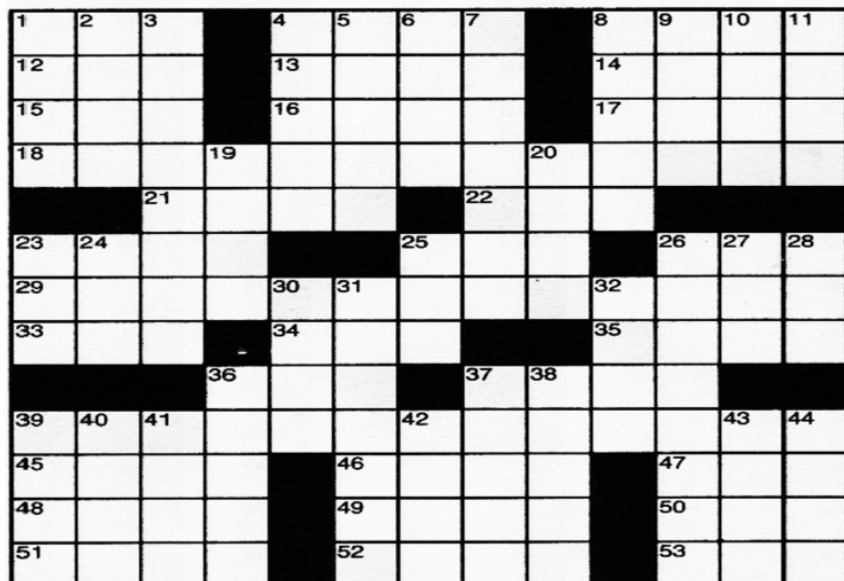
48. Northern transport
49. Cryptograph
50. Double bend
51. ___ and hounds (outdoor game)
52. Hot times in Paris
53. Enclosure for pigs

DOWN

1. Wrench
2. Bread spread
3. "I, ___" (Robert Graves novel)
4. "I Love You ___" (Ellington)
5. Acting awards
6. Substituted

sister of the OT

7. Be worth it
8. Alights
9. Hand lotion ingredient
10. Psychic hot line staffer
11. Roman Polanski film
19. Fishhook point
20. "Malice" actor Baldwin
23. Byrnes or Roush
24. Curly and Larry's pal
25. "All ___ Is Dream of You"
26. Breaks in court sessions
27. Prior's prior
28. Dunderhead
30. Tranquil interlude
31. Basic, unchanging nature
32. Survival and tool
36. Domicile
37. Crumble away
38. Tips a casino dealer, informally
39. Tabasco measure
40. Señora's cooking pot
41. America Online customer
42. Foolish codger
43. Bridge seat
44. Blushing becomingly



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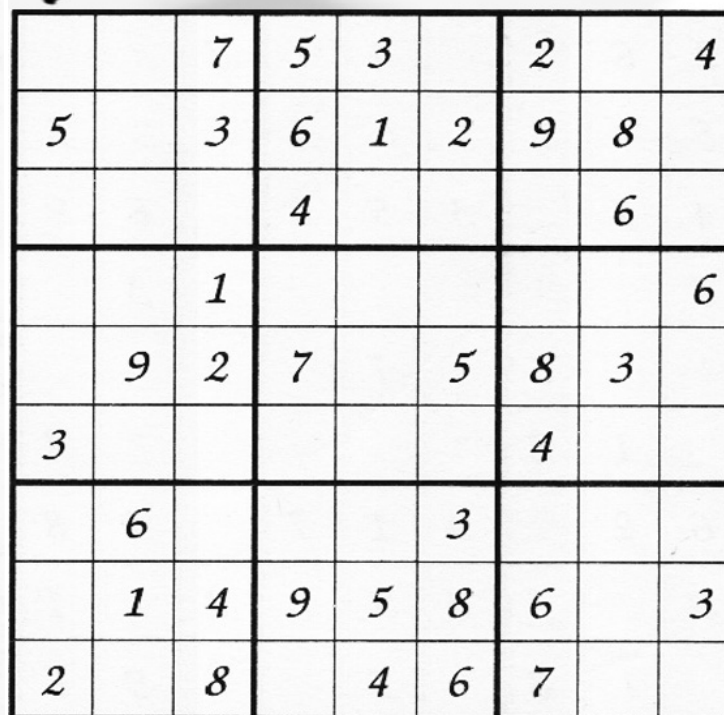
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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5	2	3	6	1	2	9	8	
8	4	1	4	7	5	9	6	
7	9	1	6	8	9	5	3	
1	8	5	9	2	7	6	3	
9	6	5	7	2	1	4	8	
5	9	1	4	8	7	6	2	3
2	8	6	7	1	9	5	3	4
3	1	7	6	5	4	8	9	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

US asks WTO to settle chicken trade row with China

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said yesterday it was asking the World Trade Organization to settle a dispute with China over Beijing's duties on US chicken imports.

Ratcheting up pressure in tense trade relations between the world's two largest economies, the Obama administration said it was taking the "next step" in its more than year-long complaint against China in an bid "to protect American jobs."

"The United States will not stand idly by while China appears to have misused its trade

remedy laws and put American jobs at risk," US Trade Representative (USTR) Ron Kirk said in a statement.

"We are serious about holding China accountable to its WTO commitments and ensuring that there is a level playing field for American businesses - including our farmers."

Washington wants a WTO dispute settlement panel to address China's imposition of antidumping duties and countervailing duties on chicken 'broiler products' -- chickens less than 13 weeks old -- imported from the United States.

China imposed the duties beginning in August and September of 2010, claiming that the chicken products were subsidized and sold at less than fair value, or "dumped," into the Chinese market.

Prior to the duties, the United States was the largest exporter of broiler products to China. Since then US broiler chicken exports to China have fallen sharply, US officials said.

An estimated 300,000 US agricultural jobs are at risk from the impact of the duties, according to Kirk.

European banks need to raise 114.7 bn euros, says regulator



Madrid on December 08, 2011. France and Germany drummed up support for their plan to fix the eurozone as European leaders geared up for a last chance summit to save the debt-laden currency union from collapse.

LONDON (AFP) - Europe's banks must raise an extra 114.7 billion euros (\$152.5 billion) in new capital to restore stability and confidence in markets, the EU's banking regulator said yesterday.

The European Banking Authority said in a statement that its final recapitalisation plans were part of "co-ordinated measures to restore confidence in the banking sector" ravaged by the eurozone debt crisis.

The final figure was more than 8.0 billion euros higher compared with the EBA's initial guidance given two months ago.

The results came on the first day of a crucial EU summit that is aimed at resolving the eurozone's festering sovereign debt crisis.

European Union leaders late yesterday open a make-or-break summit aiming to fix a crippling debt crisis, as French President Nicolas Sarkozy warned there would be no "second chance" to save the eurozone.

AFP photo shows a street musician plays violin near a restaurant displaying a giant sticker of a Euro coin on its window and offering pizzas for one euro in the center of

ECB cuts rates but says it is up to governments to save euro

FRANKFURT (AFP) - The European Central Bank cut its key rates yesterday, but insisted it is up to eurozone governments to solve the debt crisis as EU leaders gathered in Brussels for a make-or-break crisis summit.

The ECB's governing council, under intense pressure to come to the euro's rescue, lowered eurozone borrowing costs for the second time in two months, cutting the rate for its main refinancing operations by a quarter of a percentage point to 1.00 percent.

The ECB has played firefighter throughout the two-year long sovereign debt crisis and its president, Mario Draghi of Italy, told a news conference that the bank would continue to play its part.

But ultimately it was up to

governments to "do their utmost" to restore shattered confidence in the single currency, he said.

"The ultimate decisions are in the hands of leaders," Draghi said.

Looking ahead to the summit in Brussels, Draghi said "what's happening is a redesign of the fiscal agreement in a way that would rebuild confidence."

"We have our own views, but the ultimate decisions are in the hands of leaders. They bear responsibility for the decision," he said.

In addition to cutting its rates, the ECB said it would extend the term of its liquidity-providing operations to three years, ease the requirements for the collateral put up in return for the loans, and cut the mandatory reserves eurozone banks must hold at the central bank by half to 1.0 percent.

That will provide reassurance that the ECB will support the region's banks in the long haul, as previously funds were available only for up to one year.

Cameron wields veto threat on EU treaty change

BRUSSELS (AFP) - British Prime Minister David Cameron warned yesterday that he would not hesitate to veto an EU treaty change should his demands be ignored at a summit held to resolve the euro debt crisis.

"If I can't get what I want, I will have no hesitation in vetoing a treaty at 27 because I am not going to go to Brussels and not stand up for our country," Cameron said in London before arriving for the summit with his 26 EU counterparts.

Under pressure from the eurosceptic wing of his conservative party, Cameron has vowed that EU treaty change -- pro-

posed by Germany and France as a response to the debt crisis -- must not be allowed to undermine British interests.

"We need obviously to get that stability in the eurozone that's good for European countries and good for Britain as well but also we need to protect Britain's interests," Cameron said on arrival at the EU Council in Brussels.

"Those are my aims and that's what we will be discussing," he added in a brief statement to reporters ahead of a working dinner of EU leaders devoted to changing the framework of the embattled 17-state eurozone.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 12/08/2011	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
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Britain	GBP		2.780	2.840
Switzerland	CHF		1.9360	1.9440
Netherlands	EUR		2.3884	2.4124
Sweden	SEK		0.2623	0.2703
Denmark	DKK		0.3189	0.3269
Norway	NOK		0.3084	0.3164
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A	I	D	A	B	A	I	T	I	D
W	R	E	N	I	S	R	A	E	L
				H	O	C	K	E	R
A	L	C	O	A		E	E	N	
P	O	L	O	F	I	E	L	D	G
S	A	I	D		R	T	E		P
E	M	P		R	A	C	E	T	R
			B	E	E		H	O	L
P	O	O	L	P	A	R	L	O	R
E	X	A	M	I	N	E	D		A
P	E	R		N	A	B	S	T	O
A	N	D		E	T	A		E	D

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Peru's Shining Path rebel leader admits defeat

LIMA (AFP) - The Shining Path guerrilla group has been defeated and will no longer attack government forces, the group's leader, 'Comrade Artemio,' said in an interview with local media out Wednesday.

'Artemio,' whose real name is Jose Flores, heads the remnants of a group that terrorized Peruvians in the 1980s and 1990s.

The rebels were crushed in the 1990s under president Alberto Fujimori, and survivors fled to the mountainous jungle regions on the eastern flanks of the Andes, where they worked as hired guns for drug runners raising coca -- the source plant of cocaine.

A reporter with the prestigious online publication IDL-Reporteros asked "Artemio" if the war the Maoist rebel group began in 1980 ended in their defeat.

"Yes, that's the truth. We are not going to deny that," said 'Artemio.'

The rebel leader also said there will be no future attacks from his group. "That I can guarantee," he said. "We have no intention at all of brandishing our weapons of war, of armed struggle. We want a



PERU, Handout picture released by Peruvian IDL institute depicting Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) leftist guerrilla remnant, legendary leader "Comrade Artemio", as he is interviewed at an undisclosed location of the Alto Huallaga jungle.

political solution, to sit down and negotiate."

'Artemio,' 47, said that he has had some contacts with the government of President Ollanta Humala, but that there has been no agreement to demobilize the last Shining Path fighters, believed to be in the low hundreds.

In September, Shining Path guerrillas opened fire on a military helicopter that was picking up a special forces patrol in the Apurimac and Ene River valley, killing two army officers.

But the Russian-built MI-17 was able to take off with the special forces team and land at a nearby town, the military said.

Some 70,000 people were killed between 1980 and 2000 as the Peruvian government crushed the Shining Path and a rival leftist guerrilla group, the Tupac Amaru movement, according to Peru's independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Lady Gaga takes anti-bullying campaign to White House

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Eccentric pop diva Lady Gaga took her anti-bullying campaign to the White House this week where she was lauded as a source of strength for many young people who are scared at school.

Her visit follows a White House bullying conference earlier this year, called to mitigate the plight of nearly a third of US schoolchildren, or 13 million students, who are bullied each year, according to official figures.

President Barack Obama was away making a major speech on the economy in Kansas, but Lady Gaga was welcomed to the White House by Valerie Jarrett, one of his most senior political advisers.

"Lady Gaga has described this cause as a personal one -



- she has said that as a child, she was often picked on for being different," Jarrett said in a White House blog post.

"I am deeply moved by the way she has used her story, and her success, to inspire young people, and shine the spotlight on important issues.

"Over the last three years, we have seen that when we work together on behalf of human rights, we can accomplish truly amazing things,

yet too many young people still remain at risk."

The "Bad Romance" singer has linked up with the MacArthur Foundation and Harvard University to launch the Born This Way Foundation, which will explore ways to enhance the safety of children at school.

Obama encountered an extravagantly dressed Lady Gaga during a fundraising event in California in September, and ABC News said she brought up bullying with the president during a closed question and answer session.

Lady Gaga told fans in September that she would bring up the case of a 14-year-old New York boy Jamie Rodemeyer, who committed suicide after complaining in an online video that he had been bullied.



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers,

airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoast-aruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what



Rosie and Aaron love their burger too



Gouda Burger 2

they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are

made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

SPORTS

Football: Platini rejects goal-line technology

VENICE (AFP) - UEFA president Michel Platini spoke of his preference for human eyes over technology during the European football governing body's Executive Committee meeting here on Thursday.

Earlier this week, FIFA president Sepp Blatter gave his backing to goal-line technology but Platini remained steadfast in his opposition to the idea, claiming UEFA's solution of putting two extra officials behind the goal was preferable to going down the route of electronic aids.

Blatter, however, said the extra officials are too costly for many poorer countries.

"We put (extra) human eyes to see if the ball has gone in. I like the five officials because it's a human system," said Platini.

"If you ask (UEFA referees chief Pierluigi) Collina, he will tell you that many good deci-

sions have been taken that way. "I understand that FIFA says it will cost too much but in any case it's not video refereeing, it's just on the goal-line.

"I'm not sure technology is important in such cases. If you consider the World Cup in 2010 and 1966, that's two cases.

Platini was referring to two matches between England and Germany (or West Germany in 1966).

England won the World Cup final at Wembley 4-2 in 1966 but debate still rages over whether their third goal, scored by Geoff Hurst, actually crossed the line.

And then last year, Germany were the beneficiaries of a poor decision when a shot from Frank Lampard clearly went a foot or two over the line in their last-16 match but was not given.

Had it stood, England would

have levelled the scores at 2-2 but instead went on to lose 4-1.

While both of those were very high-profile cases, Platini fears that introducing goal-line technology would lead to other areas also becoming affected by technology.

"What scares me is that if we start to use technology for things that have little point, we will also move onto offside technology, because there are five offsides per match," he said.

"The (FIFA) Board will decide but I have the right to disagree and I don't think it's a good idea."

Looking forward to next year's European Championship in Poland and Ukraine, Platini insisted it would be an excellent competition despite concerns about the two countries' ability to organise such an event.

Boxing: Russian boxer Simakov dies after knockout

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian light-heavyweight Roman Simakov has died at the age of 27 after being knocked out and put in a coma during a WBC Asian title fight, the Russian Boxing Federation (RBF) announced on Thursday.

Simakov had to be carried from the ring on a stretcher after a seventh-round knock-

out by compatriot Sergei Kovalev in their fight in Yekaterinburg on Monday.

"He fell into a coma and was taken to hospital but the doctors were not able to revive him," the RBF said in a brief statement on their website.

Simakov was knocked down in the sixth round by Kovalev, 28, but got back to

his feet, only to be sent to the canvas again in the following round.

The Ria Novosti news agency reported that a post mortem would take place to establish the precise cause of death.

Simakov, who began his career in 2008, won 19 of his 22 fights, with nine victories inside the distance.

Football: Dalglish fury at Rooney appeal

LIVERPOOL (AFP) - Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish on Thursday blasted the Football Association (FA) for setting a bad example in their appeal of Wayne Rooney's three-match international ban.

"I don't think that's a good example to set," said Dalglish.

The Manchester United striker's suspension, which will take effect at next year's European Championships in

Poland and Ukraine, was reduced from three to two matches by UEFA after a red card for kicking Miodrag Dzulovic during England's 2-2 draw in Montenegro in October.

But Dalglish contrasted the situation with the treatment of one of his own players, Luis Suarez, both on and off the pitch.


Liverpool's Uruguay inter-

national, already facing a racism charge dating back to October, has been charged with misconduct after allegedly making an obscene gesture to fans following the 1-0 defeat at Fulham on Monday.

And Dalglish believes the FA should look at their own actions before tackling other issues.

Dalglish labelled the way the FA have dragged their heels over Suarez's racism charge with no date yet set for a hearing at which Suarez will deny the allegations against him.

Rooney's two-match ban means he misses the Group D opener against France on June 11 in Donetsk and also the second game against Sweden in Kiev on June 15 but can now face Ukraine on June 19 in Donetsk.

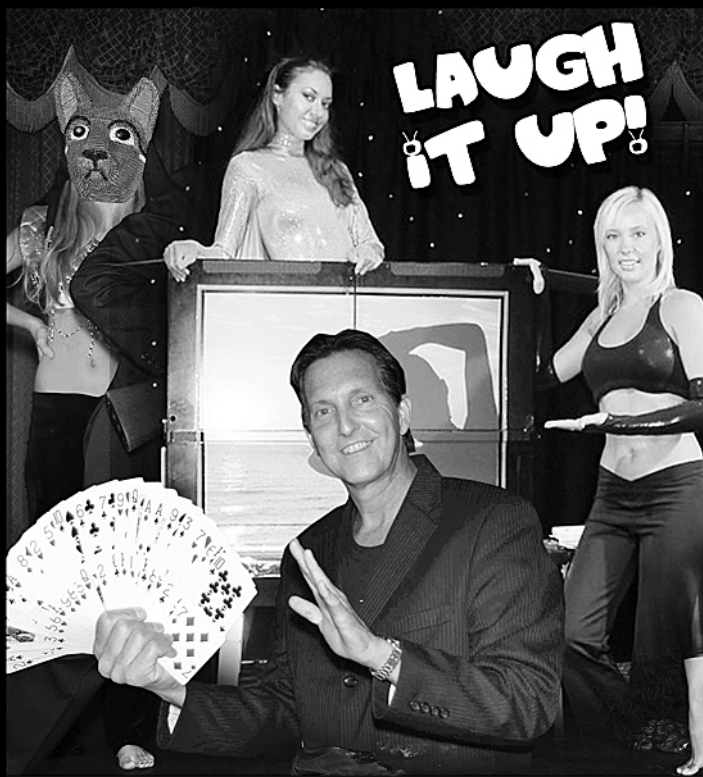


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American football: Ex-coach gets bail on sex charges

BELLFONTE (AFP) - Penn State University's former grid-iron assistant coach, Jerry Sandusky, posted \$250,000 bail on new child sex abuse charges after spending a night in jail, court records showed Thursday.

Sandusky used \$200,000 in real estate holdings and a certified check for \$50,000 provided by his wife Dorothy to obtain his release.

Under terms imposed by a judge on Wednesday after Sandusky's arrest on 12 new charges from his ninth and 10th accusers, Sandusky will be confined to his home and required to wear an electronic monitoring device.

Sandusky is not allowed on the university campus and is forbidden from any contact

with witnesses or alleged victims in the case.

Sandusky already faces a hearing on Tuesday on 40 other similar charges from his first eight accusers over a 15-year span when they were children.

While admitting he showered with children, Sandusky said he did not sexually abuse the men when they were children.

Sandusky had been free on \$100,000 unsecured bail granted last month by a local judge.

Authorities arrested and arraigned Sandusky on the new charges after a grand jury questioned the two new accusers, both linked to The Second Mile, a charity started by Sandusky in 1977.

Football: Bring it on, says Basel coach after United win

BERLIN (AFP) - Basel's German coach Heiko Vogel said Thursday the Swiss minnows are ready to take on the best in Europe after their shock victory over Manchester United

put them in the last 16 of the Champions League.

"No matter the opponent, we are ready for the challenge and we want to continue to make waves," Vogel told Germany's Sky Sports News with giants Barcelona, Real Madrid, Inter Milan or Bayern Munich as possible opponents.

Basel will find out who they will face when the draw is made on Friday, December 16 in Nyon, but the Swiss team are riding a wave of euphoria after their stunning 2-1 win over United on Tuesday.

The Swiss are in the last 16 for the first time since 2002-03 after they rocked United in the ninth minute when Basel skipper Marco Streller turned in the opener from Xherdan Shaqiri's left-wing cross.

Swiss striker Alexander Frei made the game safe with an 84th-minute header, before United's Phil Jones scored a consolation goal with a minute to play, but United's injury-time onslaught proved fruitless.

Vogel, who took over as coach in October after ex-Bayern Munich star Thorsten Fink quit to train German league club Hamburg, said Basel had shown "anything is possible in football," after their "David against Goliath" win.

Basel finish second in Group C, behind leaders Benfica, while United finish third to end up in the Europa League.

Baseball: Pujols signs 10-year deal with Angels



DALLAS (AFP) - Three-time National League Most Valuable Player Albert Pujols and southpaw starting pitcher C.J. Wilson have signed deals with the Los Angeles Angels, ESPN reported on Thursday.

The deals, coming on the final day of a Major League Baseball team owners meeting in Dallas, bring the American League West division club the two biggest prizes available on

the off-season free agent market.

Former St. Louis Cardinals slugger Pujols signed a 10-year deal worth \$250 million while former Texas hurler Wilson inked a five-year contract for \$77.5 million, according to the report, which cited unnamed sources.

Pujols battled an arm injury last season and still smashed 37 home runs and batted in 99 runs with a .299 average in 2011, the worst year in a career that included helping St. Louis capture the World Series this year and in 2006.

Pujols has a career .328 batting average with 445 homers.

The 31-year-old Dominican first baseman received an offer to remain with the Cardinals and was wooed by the Miami Marlins.

Instead, he joined the Angels, who gave him a no-trade

clause in his contract and made him the highest-paid first baseman in the major leagues.

Pujols became only the third player in World Series history to hit three homers in a single game, helping power the Cardinals' remarkable last-season comeback to reach the playoffs and beat the Texas Rangers in the World Series.

Wilson went 16-7 for the Rangers last season with a 2.94 earned-run average after a league-high 34 starts in only his second campaign as a starter after five years working as a reliever.

Sources told ESPN that the Cardinals were hoping to make another pitch to Pujols on Thursday but the deal was for fewer years and less money than the Angels' offer.

Angels owner Arte Moreno paid only \$184 million to purchase the club in 2003.

Golf: McIlroy strong start heaps pressure on Donald

DUBAI (AFP) - Rory McIlroy did his chances of becoming the new European number one no harm as five birdies in the last six holes saw him finish the opening round of the Dubai World Championship two shots behind leader Peter Hanson.

The Ulsterman, who needs to win the \$7.5 million tournament to go on top of the Race to Dubai in his fascinating charge on runaway leader Luke Donald, made a double bogey on his second hole, but finished the day at six-under par 66.

That took him to third place after the first round, with only Swede Hanson, who matched the course record of 64, and the 1999 British Open champion Paul Lawrie of Scotland, who made full use of benign early morning conditions with a seven-under par 65, ahead of him.

World No1 Donald, who needs to finish inside the top-10 to complete an unprecedented Money List double on both the US PGA and European Tours, was three-under at the turn, but succumbed with three bad tee shots on the back nine and the resulting bogeys restricted him to even-par 72.

Spain's Sergio Garcia, who is looking for a third win in three starts, made a double bogey on the par-3 17th in his five-under par 67, while England's Ross Fisher and Robert Rock were among three tied



for fifth place at 68 along with Spaniard Alvaro Quiros.

McIlroy, who made nine birdies, said: "It was the perfect start for me. To shoot a great score like that really sets me for the next three days."

The world No2's putter was on fire on the back nine, as he made birdie putts of 12 feet on the 10th, 25 feet on the 13th, a 40-footer on the 16th, an 18-foot effort on the 17th and a slippery 20-footer on the 18th.

Donald, who had to take unplayable on two consecutive holes on the back nine, said: "It was a mixture of two halves really. I played solid the front nine and a couple of poor drives got me on the back."

Hanson, who missed the course record narrowly as his birdie putt on the 16th lipped out and another birdie putt on the 18th from eight feet just slid past, was delighted with his bogey-free start.

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